

"Amateur Radio: Combining communication experience with modern digital techniques."

Winter QRP Sprint 17 July
Boland ARC 40 m Sprint 25 July
SARL 80 m SSB Club Championships 28 July



July 2010

Did You Write the October 2009 RAE and Received an ICASA Account?

If you wrote the October 2009 Radio Amateur Examination and received an account from ICASA for R173,75 do not pay the full amount. You only need to pay R6,75.

The account shows R140 examination fee, R27 License fee and R6,75 for the last three months of 2009. The SARL has paid R167 to ICASA in respect of each candidate. The problem is that ICASA has not allocated the bulk payment to individual licensee's accounts. It is mistake on ICASA's side. They are rectifying their oversight. However, it may take some time before ICASA will complete all the corrections. Just pay R6,75 and your amateur radio License will be fully paid up till December 2010.

Technology in Amateur Radio - Where Are Our Innovators

The SA Amateur Radio Development Trust has thus far received one entry in the Innovation in Amateur Radio Competition from an Amateur in the UK. Where are the South African innovators?

Radio amateurs and technologists are invited to submit projects that will innovate amateur radio whether it is software, amateur radio and the Internet, the development of compact HF antennas for flat and complex dwellers or innovation in Emergency Communications.

Out-of-the box ideas are required to solve some of the problems and challenges faced by the 21st century radio amateurs. The innovation project is in the form of a competition to stimulate the creative side of amateurs to develop those solutions that will make the hobby more enjoyable to amateurs all over the world. Even old ideas improved with modern design techniques and modern components can generate a "wow" factor. Solutions will be judged by their uniqueness, e.g. not having been previously published.

Entry of paper designs are invited by 30 September 2010. The designs must be innovative but also practically implementable. Three entries will be chosen to go to the final stage of the competition, which requires the entrant to develop and build a prototype. The three winners of the first stage will be announced at on 31 October 2010.

Visit www.amateurradio.org.za for details and an entry form.

ZS10WCS

The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup is almost over and since September 2009, various amateur radio clubs in the country have operated the special event call sign ZS10WCS. These clubs are asked to ensure that the ZS10WCS logs are submitted to Dennis, ZS4BS, so that he can update the

HF Happenings 414



SARL QSL system as well as the ARRL Logbook of the World. The logs can be sent in ADIF or CSV format. The last update was in early May 2010. Send the logs to zs4bs@netactive.co.za.

ARRL's 500 kHz Experiment Shows Small Growth

In the quarterly report for the ARRL's 500 kHz Experimental Station for the period ending May 2010 Experiment coordinator Fritz Raab, W1FR, reported that since the experiment began in late 2006, 20 of the 32 participating stations are currently active. The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology granted the WD2XSH experimental license to the ARRL in September of that year. "Our present license grant expires on August 1," Raab said. "We are planning to do an 'as-is' renewal this month."

The WD2XSH Web site has received 511 reports since the end of February, bringing the total number of reports to 11 234 since the beginning of the issuance of the experimental license. Raab said more than 60 000 hours of activity has been logged on the Web site since September 2006. Stations do not have to be members of the experimental team to post reception reports.

On the international front, Raab said that German amateur Horst Stöcker, DO1KHS, has been issued experimental license DI2AN. The Radio Club YO2KAB in Romania is reported to be operating a beacon, with call sign YO2X, on 505,110 kHz; this is the second Romanian station to operate on 500 kHz. The Fort Pearch Rock special event station, GB4FPR, operated on 502 kHz from Fort Perch Rock to celebrate Marconi Day in April.

Raab said that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) continues to oppose an amateur allocation on 600 meters. The IMO's subcommittee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) noted in its March meeting that "a secondary allocation [in the 415-526,5 kHz band] for the Amateur Service would increase the probability of harmful interference."

In South Africa the support for an amateur allocation around 500 kHz also looks problematic with similar objections as voiced by COMSAR. The WRC12 agenda item will be discussed at a meeting of the ERC 12 preparatory group in Pretoria later this month. For some more interesting information on 500 kHz, visit <http://www.500kc.com/>.

Spratly Islands, DX0 - update

Jim Linton, VK3PC, DX0DX Public Affairs, reported to OPDX on 9 July, "DX0DX DXpedition 2011 Spratly Islands - Update report 10 July 2010 - (edited) The team headed by Chris Dimitrijevic, VK3FY, continues to work towards completing a range of matters mainly related to the logistics that go with such a large and prolonged DXpedition on a remote island.



A multi-national group of up to 30 amateur radio operators from eleven countries will reach Thitu Island in the South China Sea by boat in three dedicated teams to put DX0DX on air from 6 to 24 January 2011.

Chris, VK3FY, reports it has been re-assuring that the level of support and encouragement from officials remains strong following the change in local government leadership on the island in the past week.

The appointed DX0DX QSL Manager is Bob Schenck, N2OO, who has a very good track record in handling the QSLing for more than 100 DXpeditions.

In early online polling on the DX0DX website www.dx0dx.net of the DX community on the mode that DX0DX is wanted was fairly evenly divided between SSB (37%), CW (35%) and RTTY (28%), and there's an even spread of band preference 160 to 10 m.

So far the VHF & UHF bands rate poorly, but undoubtedly when DX0DX has propagation it will be in great demand. The chosen HF, VHF & UHF frequencies appear on the DXpedition website. For those interested in 6m, a propagation beacon will run on 50,090 MHz when the band is closed.

With six months to go before DX0DX gets on air, Chris, VK3FY, reports that steady progress is being made to seek further sponsorship and funding support. It is hoped more announcements will be made in coming months.

To date the corporate sponsors are ICOM America, SteppIR, Spiderbeam, WXOB Array Solutions, Ham Radio Outlet, and Heil Sound. It is hoped to be able make more announcements in coming months.

The DX0DX Team acknowledges the financial support already received from individual radio amateurs Brad, WA6JJB, Paul, N6PSE, Marc, DO4DXA, Maurice, N4LZ, Vic, W4VIC, Ken, N5TY, Allan, VK2CA, Paul, VK2HV, Scotty, KG9Z, and Clay, K7HC.

Support has also been given by the IARU Region 3 member society Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA), DXWORLD.NET, and ClubLog.ORG."



The Committee of the Centurion ARC

African DX

Mauritius, 3B8. Armin, DK9PY is active as 3B8/DK9PY from Mauritius (AF-049) until 21 July. He operates only CW on 40-10 metres, running 100 watts into dipoles and a long wire. Armin might go on a 2-day side trip to either Reunion Island (FR) and/or Rodriguez Island (3B9).

Togo, 5V. Franco, I1FQH, will be active as 5V7DX from Kpalime Village in central Togo on 15 - 30 July 2010. He will be active on 20 - 10 metres using an ICOM 7000 with KL500 solid-state amplifier to a Spiderbeam and on 40 - 30 metres he will use a homebrew vertical. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

Burkina Faso, XT. Andre, HB9CVC/XT2CVC, Ludo, HB9EOU/XT2LW, and Pierre-Andre, HB9HLV /XT2HLV, from the VHF DX Gang, HB9EME, will be active as XT2EME from Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 15 July to 2 August. They will operate SSB, CW and PSK on 80, 40, 20, 17, 15,

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12, 10 and 6 metres. QSL via HB9EOU. Proceeds from QSLing and donations will be given to "La Maison du Coeur," the orphanage the group will operate from. Further information is available on the expedition's website at <http://xt2eme.cq-dx.org>

Egypt, SU. Gab, SU/HA3JB will be active from Egypt between September and November 2010 to renew his license. He plans to operate CW, RTTY, PSK31 and some SSB, including an entry in the CQ WW RTTY Contest (25 - 26 September). QSL via home call only direct with SAE. Please write your e-mail address on your QSL card so you will get e-mail feedback. Further information at www.ha3jb.com/

Ascension Island, ZD8. Marko, N5ZO will be active from Ascension Island (AF-003, WLOTA L-1491) as ZD8O during the CQ WW DX CW Contest (27 - 28 November) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via OH0XX, direct or bureau.

Madagascar, 5R. Franck, F4DBJ, will once again be active as 5R8HT from Ivato between 5 September and 28 November. Activity will be on 80 and 40 metres (using a W3DZZ antenna) and on 20, 15 and 10 metres using a vertical antenna and only using 100 watts. QSL via his home call sign.

Democratic Republic of Congo, 9Q. If you missed working Patrick, ON4HIL, as 9Q50ON, this past week, do not worry. Patrick will help the locals in Kinshasa to get their club station on the air to activate and assist them in making their first QSOs as 9Q50AR. This is another special event call sign to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the independence of the Democratic Republic Congo. Different local operators will air this call sign until the end of 2010. It is suggested to PLEASE be patient with these operators as some may not be skilled enough to handle huge pile-ups. A QSL Manager is expected to be announced soon.

The Gambia, C5. Members of the Czech and Slovak OMOC Contest Crew have announced another DXpedition to The Gambia to take place between 18 November and 1 December. They plan to renew the call signs from their previous DXpedition, C50C or C52C used in The Gambia 2007, the greatest Slovak expedition of its kind ever. The special call sign C5A will be reserved for the CQ WW DX CW Contest. The team members of The Gambia 2010 DXpedition are Rich, OK8WW/OM2TW, Jiri, OK1RI, Joe, OM5AW, Norbert, OM6NM, Roman, OM2RA, Jiri, OK1DO, Lada, OK1DIX, Petr, OK1FFU, and Vlada, OK1NY. For more details and updates, visit their Web at http://www.om0c.com/?Gambia_2010_-_C5A

Chagos Islands, VQ90. Jim, ND9M/VQ9JC, from Diego Garcia (AF-006) informs, "I've received a temporary license for what's turning into an annual special prefix operation. I will be signing VQ90JC (nine zero) from 10 to 25 July and will participate in both the IARU Radiosport and IOTA Contests, and will be on all bands (if open) including the satellites. This will be my fourth special prefix call sign. All operation will have to fall outside of my normal work hours and will typically be 12:00 - 17:30 UTC, although I might be able to squeeze in some extra time outside those hours." QSL via his home call sign, ND9M.

Special Event Stations

Cyprus, 5B50. Alan, 5B4AHJ, will celebrate his 50th anniversary as a licensed radio amateur on 25 October. To celebrate, Alan will be active as 5B50J from 25 October 2010 to 25 October 2011. Activity will be on CW and SSB. QSL via 5B4AHJ and LoTW.

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Croatia, 9A10. Look for special event station 9A10P (Nine Alpha ONE ZERO Papa) to be active through the end of the year to celebrate the city of Djurdjevac. A special QSL will be issued, and all of the QSOs will be confirmed automatically via the Bureau.

Portugal, CS29. Look for special event station, CS29MR, to be on the air between 12 and 18 July, to celebrate the 29th International Motorcycle Concentration Faro. Activity will be on 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. Operators mentioned are Jose, CT1EHX, Joao, CT1FNT, Toze, CT1GFK, Goncalo, CT1GPQ, Miguel, CT1IUA, Rui, CT2IHP, Carlos, CT2HTN, and Pedro, CT2JMW. QSL via CT1EHX. More information on QRZ.com.

Turkey, TC90. A group of Turkish radio amateurs from TRAC Manisa Branch will be working as TC90AA to commemorate the 90th anniversary of "Anadolu Ajansi". Operations will take place during the month of July 2010. The "Anadolu Agency" (AA) (Turkish: Anadolu Ajansi) is the Turkish state news agency commissioned with producing news releases pertaining to the country. The agency was set up on 6 April 1920, by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic during the Turkish War of Independence, and is the biggest news agency of Turkey.

During July 2010, TRAC Manisa Branch will be operating on all HF bands using CW, SSB and BPSK31 modes during the celebration. The main operators will be: Urcun, TAOU (SSB), Tevfik, TA1HZ (PSK), Serkan, TA2JN (SSB), Mehmet, TA3EV (SSB/PSK), Nuri, TA3X (CW), Bahattin, TB3BO, Hamdi, TB3GA, and Turgay, TB3IT. QSL via the Bureau or to TA3KO Manisa Branch. More details are available on QRZ.com.

Battery Bunglers

Just how hard can it be to load batteries into devices and get the polarity correct? Well, apparently this very simple task is just beyond some people, who we will describe as being Polarity-Agnostic, or call a spade a spade, they're battery bunglers.

So prevalent is this lack of skill that Microsoft and Duracell have identified it as an untapped market, and created batteries that have both positive, you know that is the one with the plus sign, and negative or hyphen, at both ends. This bipolar set-up of terminals is subject to a patent entitled 'Eliminating Incorrect Battery Placement'. The InstaLoad technology is a brilliant, basic mechanical solution without electronic components or circuitry.

Already it has found application in hearing aids, torches and soon to follow will be a host of gadgets presumably the Duracell Energiser Bunny.

Jim Linton, VK3PC

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 12 July to 19 July 2010.

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 July
Mode: (see rules)
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 18 July 2010
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

**DMC RTTY Contest**

12:00 UTC 17 July to 12:00 UTC 18 July

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high; Single Op 12-Hr - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; SWL

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: RST and serial no

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each DXCC country and each JA, W, VE, VK call areas once; each continent once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x continents x total DXCC/call area mults

Submit logs by: 18 August 2010

E-mail logs to:

dmcrtty[at]digital-modes-club[dot]org

Mail logs to: DMC Contest Committee, PO Box 8, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

Find rules at:

http://digital-modes-club.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=56&lang=en**North American RTTY QSO Party**

18:00 UTC 17 July to 06:00 UTC 18 July

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op - QRP or low; Multi-Two - low

Max operating hours: Single Op: 10 hours; Multi-Two: 12 hours

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station

Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; each VE province/territory once per band; each North American country (except W/VE) once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 31 July 2010

E-mail logs to: (see rules, web upload preferred)

Upload log at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogssubmit.php>

Mail logs to: Shelby Summerville, K4WW, 6506 Lantana Ct., Louisville, KY 40229-1544, USA

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>**RSGB Low Power Field Day**

09:00 - 12:00 UTC and 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 18 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 and 40 m

Classes: Single Op - fixed or portable - 10 W; Single Op - fixed or portable - 3W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable - 10 W; Multi-Op - fixed or portable - 3 W

Exchange: RST, serial no and power

QSO Points: 15 points per QSO with QRP portable or mobile station; 10 points per QSO with QRP fixed station; 5 points per QSO with non-QRP station

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 30 July 2010

Upload log at: lowpower.logs@rsgbhfcc.org

Mail logs to: RSGB G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 7AF, England

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/rqrps.html>**CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush**

20:00 - 21:59 UTC 18 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 20 m Only

Classes: W: Wire antennas; V: Vertical antenna; B: Beam antenna; P: Portable operation, any antenna

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, class and member no or power output

Work stations: Once per 30 minutes (max of 3 times)



QSO Points: 3 points per 1st QSO with a station; 2 points per 2nd QSO with a station; 1 point per 3rd QSO with a station; 100 points for 1st QSO with WOCQC

Multipliers: Each state, province, country once; each club member once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total state/province/country mults x member mults

Submit logs by: 17 August 2010

E-mail logs to: kiOrb[at]arrl[dot]net

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.cqc.org/contests/gold2010.htm>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 19 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country and member no and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 25 July 2010

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://www.fpqrp.com/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.fpqrp.com/fpqrprun.php>

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 21 July

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint, 00:30 - 02:30 UTC 22 July

RSGB 80 m Club Data Championship, 19:00 - 20L30 UTC 22 July

NCCC Sprint Ladder, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 23 July

RSGB IOTA Contest, 12:00 24 July to 12:00 UTC 25 July

Boland ARC 40 m Mobile Contest, 13:00 to 16:00 UTC 25 July

SARL 80 m Club Phone Contest, 17:30 - 18:30 UTC 28 July

SARL HF Phone Contest, 13:00 to 16:30 UTC 1 August

This week in History

The week starting Monday 12 July 2010

0064 - Rome burned on this day - while Nero fiddled, literally

1789 - This was the day the French Revolution began

1868 - Alvin J. Fellows of New Haven, CT patented the tape measure

1912 - Bradley A. Fiske patented the airplane torpedo

1914 - Robert H. Goddard of Worcester, MA, patented liquid rocket fuel

SARL QRP sprints

Aim. These sprints are intended to be fun activities to promote QRP operation between radio amateurs in Southern Africa. Using homebuilt equipment is encouraged, but is not a requirement.

Dates

Summer: 4th Saturday in January - 22 January 2011

Autumn: 3rd Saturday in April - 16 Apr 2011

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Winter: 3rd Saturday in July - 17 Jul 2010

Spring: 4th Saturday in October - 23 Oct 2010

Times: 12:00 to 15:00 UTC [14:00 to 17:00 CAT]

General Information. Home or field stations are welcome to participate. Modes: SSB, CW or mixed (SSB/CW). Power: 5 watts (PEP) output or less. A station may be contacted once per mode.

Frequency. This is a 40 metre band only event. Please use the contest preferred segments shown - CW: 7 000 - 7 025 kHz; SSB: 7 060 - 7 100 kHz and 7 130 - 7 200 kHz

Exchange. RS(T), Grid locator and Name. Please consider exchanging realistic RS(T) signal reports. Only the first four digits of the grid locator are required, e.g. KG43. If the grid locator is unknown, then use the 3-character city code, if that is not possible use the province code. DX stations that do not know their grid locator may use their country code. The grid locator is the preferred exchange. The exchange of names is optional and is not a requirement.

Antennas. Only wire antennas to be used by competing participants.

Scoring. Each SSB contact counts 1 point. Each CW contact counts 2 points. Each prefix worked, counts as a new prefix multiplier.

Score = (QSO points) x (No of prefixes worked)

Log returns. Logs shall be submitted within 7 days after the contest and can be sent by mail to West Rand Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 5344, Weltevredenpark, 1725 or e-mail: contest@sarl.org.za

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Bulletin, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC and Pete's DX Newsdesk.

Newsletter editors are most welcome to use material from HF Happenings, just remember to acknowledge the source (which could be any one of the names mentioned above). HF Happenings can be provided in MS Word format.